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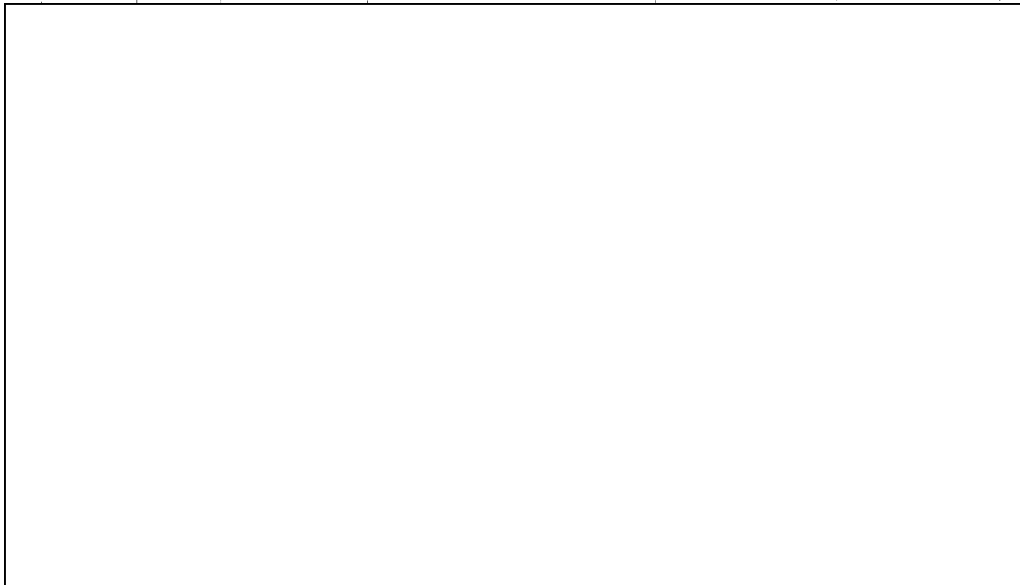
STAFF NOTES:

Developments in Indochina

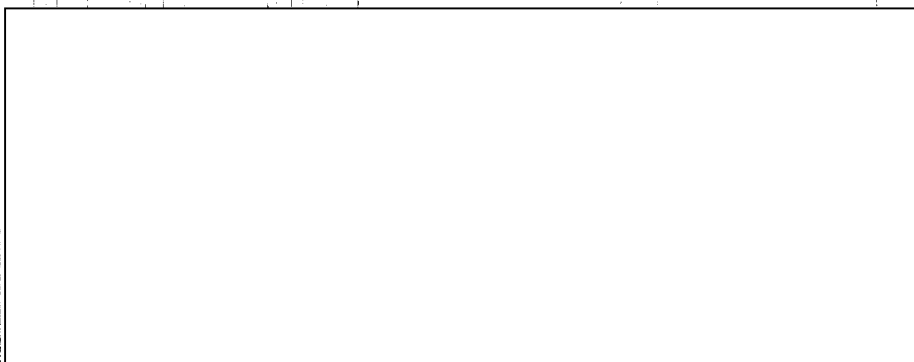
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October 15, 1974



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA

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NR

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LAOS

Pathet Lao Release More POWs
[redacted]

The Communists have released 36 additional captives, thus completing the third and fourth phases of the prisoner exchange agreement called for by the 1973 Lao accords.

All of the prisoners involved in the latest swaps were Lao. Twenty-four were set free on October 12 at the Route 23 village of Ban Itou in southern Laos. Another 12 were liberated on October 14 at Muong Phalane on Route 9 in central Laos. These releases raise the total number of prisoners repatriated by the Lao Communists to 100 Lao, 214 Thai, and American civilian contract pilot Emmet Kay. The non-Communist side released all of its captives--173 North Vietnamese and 7 Lao--during the initial exchange on the Plaine des Jarres in northern Laos on September 19.

No precise date has been set for the next release, which is expected to take place in the Luang Prabang area of northwestern Laos. [redacted]

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